TALES FROM THE TOMB

K 47409

MAR 1974

Still Only 60¢

HORROR FROM THE TOMBS BELOW

WHERE THE FLESHEATERS DWELL

THE STRANGE AND BIZARRE EVENTS THAT LEAD TO

THE HANGED

THE MACABRE TERROR OF A FANGED BEAST IN

THE BLOODY VAMPIRE

KING KONG
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UP FROM THE FETID STENCH OF ROME'S ANCIENT CATACOMBS SWARMED THE HORRIBLE ARMY—STRANGE AND SINISTER BEYOND BELIEF, SWORN TO DESTROY HUMANITY IN THEIR BONE CRUNCHING JAWS, SLAVERING AFTER HUMAN BLOOD!

WHERE THE FLESHEATERS DWELL

HE'S GETTING AWAY, SIGNOR COMMISSIONER!
NOT YET! I KNOW THESE SEWERS AS WELL AS HE DOES!

WHY DON'T YOU FIRE, SIGNOR?
NO, I WANT TO TAKE THIS ONE ALIVE IF I CAN! AFTER ALL, HE'S ONLY A PETTY THIEF!

UGH! THESE SEWER RATS GIVE ME THE CREEPS! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THEM!
DON'T BE AN OLD WOMAN! HURRY UP!

I'M CERTAIN HE DUCKED DOWN THIS WAY, AND THIS PASSAGE LEADS INTO THE OLD CATACOMBS, SO HE CAN'T GET FAR!

SUDDENLY THE TUNNEL IS FILLED WITH THE FRENZIED SCREAMS OF A MAN IN MORTAL TERROR...
FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN, SIGNOR, DID YOU HEAR THAT?
HORRIBLE! AND THAT WAS BANCO'S VOICE! DOWN THIS WAY!

THEIR FLASHLIGHTS PICK OUT A LEERING GROTESQUE THING...
GAAA! LOOK, IT'S BANCO! A MOMENT AGO HE WAS A MAN, NOW HE'S A SKELETON!
B-BUT WHAT COULD HAVE DONE THIS, SIGNOR?

THERE IS SOMETHING EVIL IN THIS PLACE! LET US GET OUT OF HERE AT ONCE!
KEEP YOUR NERVE, MAN! THERE MUST BE AN EXPLANATION FOR THIS, BUT WE'D BETTER REPORT BACK TO THE STATION!

BUT...
THE PASSAGE- IT'S BLOCKED NOW! B-BUT JUST A MOMENT AGO THERE WAS NO DOOR HERE!
WE MUST FIND ANOTHER WAY OUT AT ONCE!

WHILE DESPERATELY SEEKING A WAY OUT, THE MEN WANDER DEEPER INTO THE CATACOMBS...
PHEW, THAT SMELL IS HORRIBLE! THESE CAVERNS HAVE BEEN SEALED FOR CENTURIES!
WHAT'S THAT I HEAR?

YAAAAAAAA! SIGNOR, LOOK, THOSE THINGS!

MONSTERS- COMING AFTER US! THEY'LL TEAR US TO PIECES!
RUN FOR YOUR LIFE, MAN, RUN!
AGRRR
UBLLE

THEY TAKE REFUGE IN A SMALL ROOM...
PERHAPS THIS OLD COFFIN AND THE BONES WILL STOP THEM!
WORK, MAN! STACK MORE BONES IN THE ENTRANCE!

LOOK! ONE OF THOSE THINGS R-REACHING FOR US!
Y-YES! IT WILL GET US UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING!

...AND THERE IS ONLY ONE THING TO DO-GIVE THEM A VICTIM AT ONCE!

YOU, PIETRO! THEY WANT A VICTIM, SO LET IT BE YOU! OUT YOU GO!
GRUM-RRRRR GROUU
NO! AAAAAA

SAVE ME! DON'T LET THEM...
EEEEEYAAAAAAA

THERE IS A MOMENT OF DREADFUL RESPITE, THEN THE CREATURES COME CRASHING IN!
DNN-GAA GUMBVE!
T-THEY WANT ME NOW! UGH-WHAT MONSTERS THEY ARE-FIENDS OUT OF HADES!

BUT SURPRISINGLY...
ERGG DROO GUBB!
T-THEY'RE TRYING TO TALK TO ME! THEY WANT SOMETHING!
WUM WUM

THE FIERCE MONSTERS DO INDEED WANT TO MAKE A BARGAIN - AND AFTER A LONG TIME SIGNOR RENZI UNDERSTANDS WHAT THEY WANT! AT THE SAME TIME HE HATCHES A FIENDISH PLAN OF HIS OWN!
ALL RIGHT, YOU-THINGS! I'LL DO WHAT YOU WANT, BUT REMEMBER THAT YOU MUST OBEY ME IN RETURN!
OOO-LA!

SOON AFTERWARD A REIGN OF TERROR BEGINS IN ROME! SIGNOR RENZI, COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, SEES HIS CHANCE TO MAKE A FORTUNE!
THIS IS THE NIGHT! THOSE BRUTES SHOULD BE STRIKING NOW!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE VAULT OF THE BANK OF ROME...
W-WHAT! AN EARTHQUAKE! NO, SOMETHING COMING UP THROUGH THE FLOOR! I'D BETTER GET HELP AT ONCE!

BUT IT'S TOO LATE!
MOS-GLUR TUM BAB

AND THE WEIRD CREATURES, INTELLIGENT ENOUGH TO FOLLOW SIGNOR RENZI'S ORDERS, LOOT THE VAULT OF MILLIONS IN GOLD!
BRAM WUG
SNORG
WUF

LATER, AS THE SIGNOR KEEPS A RENDEZVOUS IN THE GLOOMY CATACOMBS...
YOU HAVE DONE WELL, YOU BRUTES, AND DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL BE PAID!
GARN-LUB!
THEY'LL MAKE ME THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD BEFORE LONG, AND WHO WILL SUSPECT?

GRUM-BOO
UHR!
COME ALONG NOW AND GET YOUR (SHUDDER) REWARD! JUST DOWN HERE THE CATACOMBS RUN UNDER A REHABILITATION CENTER! YOU CAN HAVE THEM!

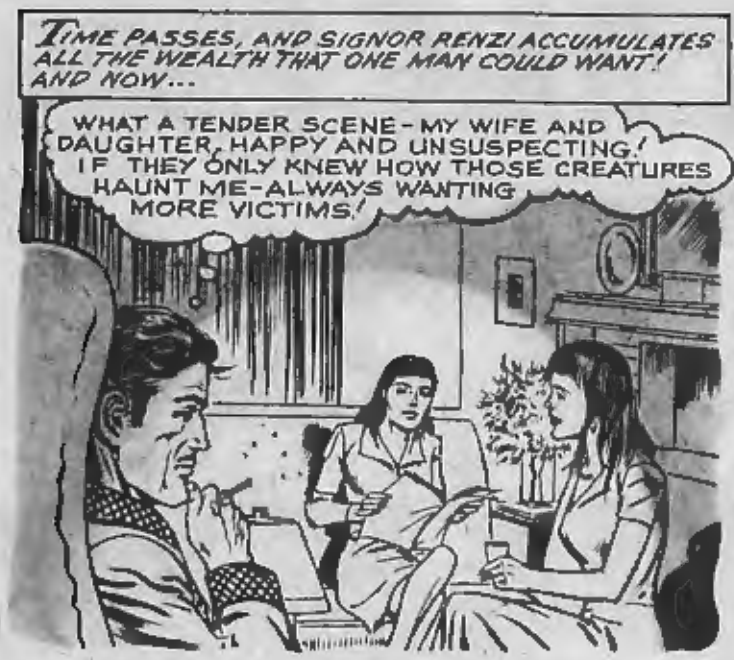
RIGHT UP THIS LADDER, NOW! IT LEADS INTO THE BARRACKS!
MMFFF
OOGLE

THIS IS A TERRIBLE THING I'M DOING! BUT I MUST! I PROMISED THEM VICTIMS IN RETURN FOR OBEDIENCE, AND IF I DON'T GIVE THEM THESE PEOPLE, THEY'LL TAKE-ME!

FROM ABOVE COMES A SUDDEN HORRIBLE OUTCRY!
AAA HELP!
THOSE CREATURES! SAVE US! HELP!
EEEEE!

DORN PLU
N-NO! OHHHHHHH!

I CAN'T STAND THOSE TERRIBLE SOUNDS ANY LONGER! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE I GO MAD!


TIME PASSES, AND SIGNOR RENZI ACCUMULATES ALL THE WEALTH THAT ONE MAN COULD WANT! AND NOW...
WHAT A TENDER SCENE - MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER, HAPPY AND UNSUSPECTING! IF THEY ONLY KNEW HOW THOSE CREATURES HAUNT ME - ALWAYS WANTING MORE VICTIMS!

I HAVE MORE MONEY THAN A DOZEN MEN COULD EVER SPEND, BUT IT'S NO GOOD UNLESS I CAN TAKE MY LOVED ONES AWAY AND ESCAPE THOSE FIENDS OF THE CATACOMBS!

AHH! THERE'S ONE OF THEM NOW, COME TO COMPLAIN BECAUSE THERE ARE NO MORE VICTIMS! WELL, MIGHT AS WELL HAVE THE SHOWDOWN NOW!

LISTEN AND TRY TO UNDERSTAND! YOU MUST GO BACK TO THE CATACOMBS FOREVER! IT'S BECOMING TOO DANGEROUS! NOW GET OUT!
WUGG!

I SAID GET OUT, YOU FOUL BEAST OF HADES! WE'RE ALL THROUGH! OUR BARGAIN IS OVER! OUT! OUT!

BUT SIGNOR RENZI IS SHOCKED FROM HIS HYSTERIA BY THE PATHETIC SCREAMS OF HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER...
GOOD HEAVENS, THEY'RE CARRYING THEM AWAY TO THE CATACOMBS, AND I'M POWERLESS TO STOP THEM!
EEEEEEE!
HELP!

FRANTICALLY SIGNOR RENZI FINDS A SECRET PASSAGE AND RACES TO THE RENDEZVOUS IN THE CATACOMBS
I'VE GOT TO BE IN TIME! M-MAYBE THEY WON'T HARM THEM - PERHAPS THEY'RE ONLY TRYING TO BLUFF ME!
M MY WIFE - MY DAUGHTER! ARE THEY SAFE? YOU MUST TELL ME - I'LL DO ANYTHING, DO YOU HEAR, ANYTHING!
GURI
THEN THE SIGNOR HEARS A HORRIBLE LAUGHTER BEHIND HIM AND TURNS TO SEE A SIGHT THAT SENDS HIS BRAIN REELING IN TORMENT!
SMUR DA!
AAAHHHHH
AND THE THINGS CLOSE IN.
SNOO
MOFT
AFTER M-ME NOW! THEY'LL K-KILL ME TOO!
GNNNNNNNN
ERS-DA-ESTT-GN-BOR-TA *
* MEANING: HE WAS A FOOL AND A KNAVE, AND WAS DOOMED FROM THE START!

THE BLOODY VAMPIRE

THAT NIGHT
ACCORDING TO THESE RUNICS, GARTH WAS A VAMPIRE, BUT HE WAS ALSO A BRAVE VIKING WARRIOR! WHEN HE WAS KILLED IN BATTLE, HIS COMPANIONS COULDN'T BRING THEMSELVES TO DRIVE A STAKE INTO HIS HEART! INSTEAD THEY LEFT THIS ON THE BODY TO KEEP HIM FROM WALKING AGAIN! BRR!
DO YOU BELIEVE THAT!
HA, HA! SHE REALLY DOES!
AS WORK PROCEEDS THE NEXT DAY
BRUSH THE DEBRIS AWAY GENTLY! HE'LL PROBABLY CRUMBLE AT TOUCH!
SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK SO! THE BODY IS IN EXCELLENT CONDITION!
A BIG MAN, WASN'T HE!
FINALLY...
WELL, THERE HE IS, GARTH THE VAMPIRE! HE LOOKS PRETTY DEAD TO ME!
YES! I DON'T THINK YOU'VE GOT MUCH TO WORRY ABOUT!
OKAY, SO I'M JUST A SILLY WOMAN! BUT HE STILL GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
WHAT THEY DO NOT SEE!
THAT NIGHT...
DON'T ALLOW ANYONE NEAR, THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT DISCOVERY!
BUT AS THE MOON REACHES ITS ZENITH
HO, GARTH IS FREE AT LAST! AND GARTH IS HUNGRY!
WHAT A LOT OF BUNK! WHY GUARD A CORPSE!
DON'T WORRY, SIR! I'LL MIND HIM LIKE HE WAS MY OWN BROTHER!

LATER ..
I THOUGHT I HEARD A SCREAM! D D YOU HEAR IT?
BETTER WATCH YOUR NERVES, MARCIA!
EEEEEE! LOOK! IT'S H M! IT'S THE VIKING! OHHH...
GREAT SCOTT, IT IS! COME ON, MOBRAY! WE'VE GOT TO INVESTIGATE!
BUT A MOMENT LATER..
THE GUARD-MURDERED! UGH, LOOK AT HIS THROAT! LOOKS AS THOUGH A W LD BEAST'S BEEN AT IT!
YES, POOR DEVIL! AND THE VIKING'S BODY IS GONE!
MABORY, A VILLAIN AT HEART, GETS AN IDEA OF HIS OWN!
BUT HOW IN THE WORLD?
THEN YOU REALLY THINK THAT THE VAMPIRE IS WALKING AGAIN?
WHO ELSE?
I'M AFRAID SHE'S RIGHT, MOBRAY! THAT FIEND IS UNDEAD, AND HE KILLED THE GUARD! BUT WE CAN'T GO TO THE POLICE WITH A STORY LIKE THIS! WE MUST FIND HIM AND DESTROY HIM OURSELVES!
DO YOU TH NK WE CAN?
RISKY!
HMM! I WONDER IF FLOYD IS TRY NG TO STEAL ALL THE CRED T FOR TH S D SCOVERY? IT'S POSSIBLE - BUT I'LL FIX THAT!

FLOYD COULD HAVE AN ACCOMPLICE, AND THE ACCOMPLICE COULD HAVE KILLED THE GUARD AND STOLEN THE BODY OF THE VIKING! THAT MAKES IT EASY TO BLAME ANYTHING ON THE VAMPIRE -- EVEN MY DEATH BUT I'VE GOT A BETTER PLAN THAN THAT!
FLOYD!
YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT HERE ALONE WITH THAT THING ROAMING AROUND!
HUH! OH YOU STARTLED ME! BUT WE'LL GET IT.
YOU'LL GET IT FIRST, AND THE VAMPIRE'LL GET THE BLAME! AND I'LL GET THE CREDIT FOR FINDING THIS BARROW! SORT OF WHAT YOU HAD IN STORE FOR ME, EH?
YOOOWW!!
THE ICEPICK WAS A GOOD CHOICE OF WEAPONS! A VAMPIRE'S TEETH MIGHT MAKE HOLES LIKE THAT--- IF THERE HAD EVER BEEN A VAMPIRE!
MOMENTS LATER
MOBRAY! WHAT ON EARTH- OH, THAT ICEPICK, ALL BLOODY! HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY?
NOT AS CRAZY AS YOU AND FLOYD THOUGHT! I KNOW YOU STARTED ALL THIS ABOUT A VAMPIRE!
YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD KILL ME AND BLAME IT ON A NON-EXISTANT FIEND! TO MAKE IT LOOK BETTER YOU KILLED THE GUARD TOO! TELL ME, WHO'S WORKING WITH YOU? I HAVE TO GET YOU ALL!
STAY BACK! I'VE GOT A GUN!

YOU'RE INSANE, MOWBRAY! KEEP BACK, OR I'LL SHOOT! I MEAN IT!
YOU LITTLE WITCH! YOU HAVEN'T GOT THE NERVE!
MOWBRAY MAKES A SUDDEN LEAP AND MARCIA FIRES!
NO! D-DON'T! I DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU! OHHHH!
I D-DIDN'T WANT TO KILL HIM! B-BUT HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME! I'VE GOT TO FIND HELP!
THE NEAR FAINTING GIRL HEARS A HORRIBLE LAUGH BEHIND HER...
EEEEEE! GARTH, THE VAMPIRE! OHHH!!
YES, I AM GARTH! AND NOW THEY ARE ALL DEAD BUT YOU!
HA HA HA HEE HEE!
YOU VILE CREATURE, YOU'RE DEAD! D-DON'T TOUCH ME!
N-NO NO! I AM UNDEAD... AND YOUR BULLETS CANNOT HARM ME!
BUT GARTH HAS A SURPRISE FOR YOU! HE'S NOT GOING TO KILL YOU! NO INDEED! FOR YOU HE HAS OTHER PLANS!
SEE HOW GENTLE I AM! I WILL NOT (CHUCKLE) HARM YOU!

IN MOMENTS GARTHS POISON FANGS DO THEIR DEADLY WORK AND AN EVIL VENOM ENTERS MARCIAS BLOODSTREAM!
AM YOUR MASTER NOW! YOU WILL OBEY ME IN ALL THINGS! YOU ARE ONE OF THE UNDEAD, AS I AM! NOW RISE AND DO MY BIDDING!
YES, MASTER! I UNDERSTAND! I AM ALSO A VAMPIRE!

BURN EVERYTHING THEN GET ME SOME OF THESE FOOLISH CLOTHES YOUR MEN WEAR! YOU CAN MAKE THE ODD CART MOVE WITHOUT HORSES?
YOU MEAN THE AUTOMOBILE! YES, MASTER!
WE WILL FIND A HOUSE SOMEWHERE! YOU WILL FIND IT IS NOT SO BAD A THING TO BE A VAMPIRE!
YES, MASTER!
MUCH LATER...
WE ARE MORE THAN 500 MILES FROM THE BARROW! SHALL WE LOOK FOR A COTTAGE?
YES, I THINK I SEE A PLACE JUST AHEAD!

THIS COTTAGE IS FINE! WE'LL TAKE IT!
SURE! BUT I'M SURPRISED JUST THE SAME! WE FIND THIS HARD TO RENT! THE-ER-GRAVEYARD, YOU KNOW!
HA, IF THAT FOOL ONLY KNEW, HEY, MARCIA! WE'LL FIND SUITABLE COFFINS FOR EACH OF US AND SLEEP IN THEM BY DAY! AT NIGHT WE WILL ROAM THE COUNTRY-SIDE AND FIND OUR PREY!
YES, MASTER! I KNOW WE'LL BE VERY HAPPY HERE!
THE END

The THING

HUNGRY? SURE, I'M HUNGRY. BUT NOT FOR YOUR SO-CALLED COOKING! I'M HUNGRY FOR LIFE... FOR LIVING, FOR ALL THE GOOD THINGS OUTSIDE.
EASY, JACK! YOUR NERVES! REMEMBER, WE'RE SCIENTISTS! WE'RE HERE TO HELP HUMANITY!

HUMANITY? BAH! A LOT ANYONE CARES!
THINK OF OUR WORK, JACK! OUR METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS! WAIT! THE AUTOMATIC METEOR ALARM IS RINGING!
BRR-RRINNGG!

AN NTERSTELLAR BODY-- IT'S PASSING THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE! AND THE ALARM'S GETTING LOUDER! THAT MEANS THE BODY'S B.G!
I HOPE IT'S BIG ENOUGH TO CRASH THIS ROTTEN PLANET TO ATOMIC DUST! LET IT COME!

G-GOOD GRIEF! IT CAN'T BE..! A METEOR... B-BIG AS THE MOON. AND IT'S NOT PASSING BY! JACK! IT'S GOING TO CRASH!

J-JACK... OHH!
DOC,, YAAA!!

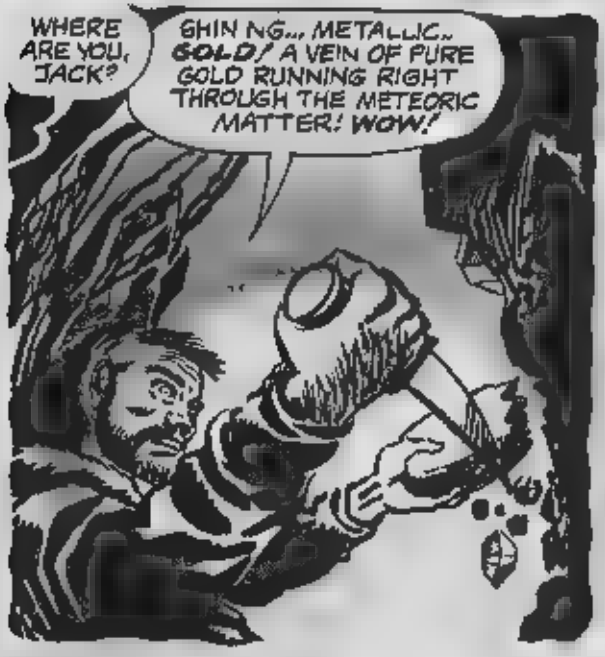
J-JACK! JACK! CAN Y-YOU HEAR ME?
I--I HEAR YOU, DOC! (GASP) ...GUESS I'M SHAKEN UP!

IT--IT'S UNCANNY... AS AS IF I SOMEHOW CAUSED IT WITH MY BLASPHEMY ON SCIENCE!
SKIP IT, JACK! LET'S GO OUTSIDE FOR A LOOK!

MAN, OH MAN, WHAT A BREAK! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF IT! IT'S THE SCIENTIFIC FIND OF THE CENTURY!
IT ALMOST BROKE US, ALL RIGHT, OKAY... I'M COMING!

LOOK HERE! A HOLE LEADING INTO THE HEART OF THE ASTEROID.. IT'S ALMOST LIKE A DOOR-WAY... INVITING US IN. BUT HOW ?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DOC? FORGETTING YOUR SCIENTIFIC MANNER? YOU SOUND LIKE YOU BELIEVE IT'S SOME KIND OF MAGIC!

I BELIEVE ONLY IN THE MAGIC OF SCIENCE, JACK! BUT I'VE NEVER HEARD OF... COMING, JACK?
SAY... WHAT'S THIS ?


WHERE ARE YOU, JACK?
GHIN NG... METALLIC.. GOLD! A VEIN OF PURE GOLD RUNNING RIGHT THROUGH THE METEORIC MATTER! WOW!

AND DIAMONDS... AND RUBIES... EMERALDS... TOPAZ! THIS HUNK OF SPACE ROCK IS WORTH MILLIONS... MILLIONS!
IT'LL BE WORTH MORE THAN THAT TO SCIENCE, ONCE I NOTIFY THE UN VERSITY OF OUR FIND!

I'LL RADIO THEM RIGHT AWAY, AND...
HOLD IT! BACK WHERE YOU WERE! YOU'RE NOT NOTIFYING ANYBODY OF THIS FIND!

YOU CAN'T MEAN IT! THIS IS THE FIND OF THE CENTURY! WE'VE GOT TO NOTIFY THE UNIVERSITY!
IT'S A FIND, ALL RIGHT! ONLY NOW, IT'S FINDERS KEEPERS! I'M NOT LETTING IT GET AWAY FROM ME!

WE'RE SCIENTISTS... SCIENTISTS, JACK! OUR DUTY IS TO...
YOU STICK TO SCIENCE! I'M THROUGH HELPING HUMANITY! I'M GOING TO BE RICH, AND YOU'RE NOT STOPPING ME!

NO! NO! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING! YOU'RE AAAAGGH!
I DON'T, EH? I WARNED YOU, DOC!

W...WHAT'S THAT SOUND? IT'S DOC...SCREAMING... IT'S ECHOING AND RE-ECHOING!
AAAAGGH...
AAAAGGH...
AAAAGGH...

OHH! THE VIBRATIONS! MY EARS... S-STOP... STOP IT! AAH!

THE METEOR... (GASP)... IT'S CRACKING APART! THE VIBRATIONS... AHHH...! MY HEAD... I CAN'T S-STAND THE VIBRATIONS!

DOC'S DYING SCREAM... ACTIVATED THE PURE QUARTZ CRYSTALS! (PANT)... HIS SCREAM SET THEM TO VIBRATING... CRACKED THE METEOR APART! RUN... RUN... GOT TO RUN!

BUT WHAT AM I AFRAID OF NOW? EVEN IF THEY'RE FROM SPACE, THEY'RE ONLY ROCKS! THEY CAN'T HURT ME. BACK... BACK... I'VE GOT TO TURN BACK! ALL THAT GOLD...THOSE DIAMONDS... EEOWW! W-WHAT H-H T ME?
(GASP)...I...I'M SEE NG THINGS! THE R-ROCKS!! T-THEY'RE STARTING TO MOVE! T-THEY'RE--
YOWWOOO THEY... THEY ARE! THE ROCKS...THEY'VE GOT A WILL OF THEIR OWN! TH--THEY'RE ALIVE! THEY'RE COMING AFTER ME!
NO...NO! ROCKS CAN'T BE ALIVE! ROCKS ARE DEAD! ALL THAT GOLD... DIAMONDS...IT'S MINE...MINE! STOP! ST...ARGHH-H!
DIAMONDS...DIA--
THE END

The Deadly Oriental Fighting Art of Instantaneous Death That Requires No Strength or CLOSE BODY CONTACT.

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- ★ Faster, deadlier and easier than Judo, Savate or Karate

Revealed at last! The most secret, the most respected, the most effective of all the Oriental fighting arts—KUNG FU. *So simple that if you can read then you can easily master the theory of this "flick-of-the-wrist" technique.* **KUNG FU works on a secret principle yet its deadly force is easy to learn and easier still to apply. KUNG FU can take any one * without training and make him a fighting machine in seconds.**

THE SECRET OF KUNG FU REVEALED AT LAST

KUNG FU is a fantastic method of self-defense [illegible] in the mysteries of the past. Once [illegible] fighting secrets were only taught by Shaolin Priests to those considered worthy only after years of preparation and testing. KUNG FU was hidden [illegible] public. Yet in spite of [illegible] keep it [illegible] he would [illegible] of its amazing power spread. Masters of other fighting arts [illegible] fear and respect its techniques. There [illegible] KUNG FU has [illegible] never require [illegible] or judo exercises.

HOW KUNG FU WORKS

KUNG FU is based on a simple yet lethally effective principle. *It is not necessary [illegible] match strength with your opponent [illegible]* [illegible] KUNG FU [illegible] **all forces are added together and unleashed against your opponent.** This is KUNG FU—a force so simple yet so devastating that its techniques have stunned the world.

KUNG FU IS BETTER THAN OTHER FORMS OF SELF DEFENSE

KUNG FU is better than all other forms of self defense. Its secret lies in its simplicity and [illegible] YOU CAN WIN [illegible] technique. YOU CAN WIN [illegible] EVEN IF YOUR [illegible] means [illegible] your hands is a fearful weapon. [illegible] weapon. [illegible] do all this without years of training, special exercises, and especially hundreds of dollars in cost.

[illegible]

With so many crimes of violence about us you could be in danger—anytime—of being hurt or worse humiliated. BUT NOW YOU CAN DO [illegible] **You can protect yourself, your family and your property with deadly efficiency in mere seconds.** Yes, and you can do [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] KUNG FU [illegible] learn [illegible] ashamed [illegible] can [illegible] dangerous situations.

WHY KUNG FU MAKES ALL THIS POSSIBLE

Why? **Because KUNG FU is as deadly as it is simple.** [illegible] require [illegible] years of endless practice. A judo Black Belt Master, for example, must practice technique after technique [illegible] and take years to master it all. NOT SO WITH KUNG FU. It's **based on an entirely different concept.** Technique and form aren't very important. DEFENSE IS KUNG FU. It is designed to help you defend yourself in most situations* with *an absolute minimum in effort and a maximum in penetration.*

COMPLETE COURSE REVEALED NOTHING ELSE TO LEARN

The SECRETS OF KUNG FU are fully revealed in one amazing "how to" book. The course comes complete and there's nothing else to learn or buy. You find all the secrets, principles and techniques simple to master and easy to apply. You don't need any special apparatus or practice dummies. And once you master the SECRETS OF KUNG FU you can forget about other systems and other methods. Now, in the privacy of your home, you can learn the deadliest fighting secrets of all time *at your very own pace.* In just minutes you can find out how to deliver a crippling blow that leaves your opponent powerless and more. In seconds you can learn how to destroy your attacker's ability to fight [illegible] much, much more. The fully revealed SECRETS OF KUNG FU are so sensational that we make you this surprising UNCONDITIONAL 3 WAY GUARANTEE. You must be satisfied not just one way but fully 3 different ways or it costs you nothing.

*We do not claim that physically handicapped or other disadvantaged persons can perform these feats. Nor are these techniques claimed to be effective against anyone armed with a loaded gun.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED 3 WAYS OR MONEY BACK AT ANY TIME

We're so sure that SECRETS OF KUNG FU is everything you'd ever want or need we make this unprecedented 3-Way Guarantee: (1) You must be absolutely and completely satisfied with the SECRETS OF KUNG FU and (2) KUNG FU must never fail you. In fact, KUNG FU must help you turn every threatening "cool" [illegible] and (3) KUNG FU must give you a sense of confidence and assurance you've never had before. Yes SECRETS OF KUNG FU must do all this and more or else at any time for a refund of your purchase price with no questions asked. You are the sole judge. [illegible] could anything be fairer?

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED 3 WAYS

CAPITAL ENTERPRISES, Dept. 171
227 East 45 Street, New York, N.Y. 10017

Rush me the complete course of SECRETS OF KUNG FU. You guarantee me complete satisfaction 3 Ways or I'll return the course at any time I wish for a refund. I pay just base price and there will be no questions asked. I promise to return to use the deadly knowledge of KUNG FU for defense only and that I will never use its secrets as an aggressor ever.

I enclose $6 in ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Money Order (Please add 50¢ additional to cover postage and handling) SORRY NO COD's

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

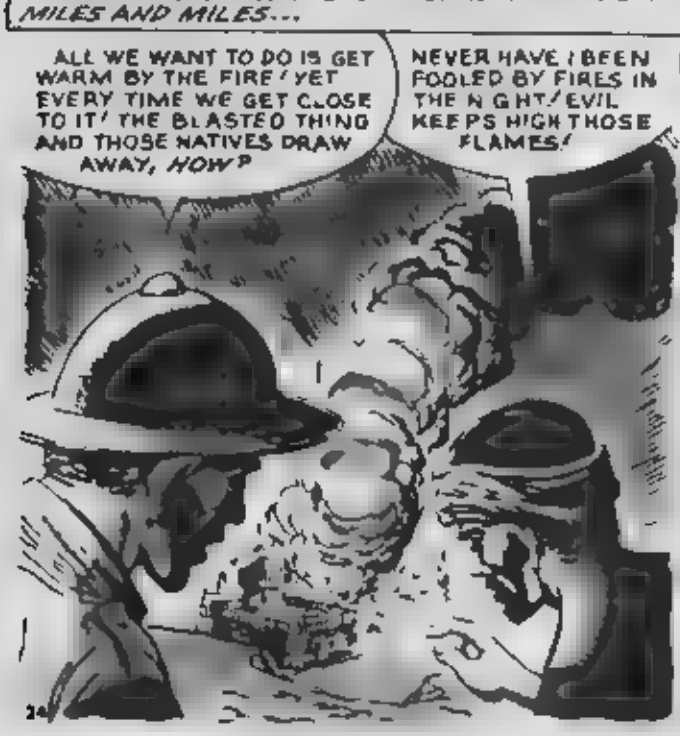
CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

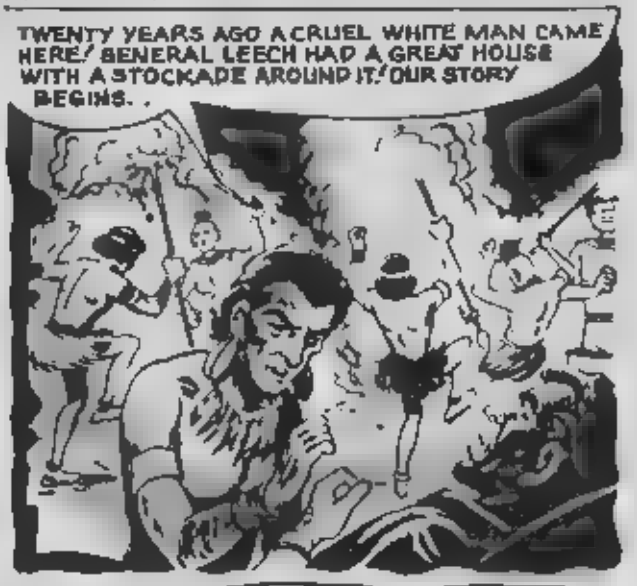
THE FIRE BEAST

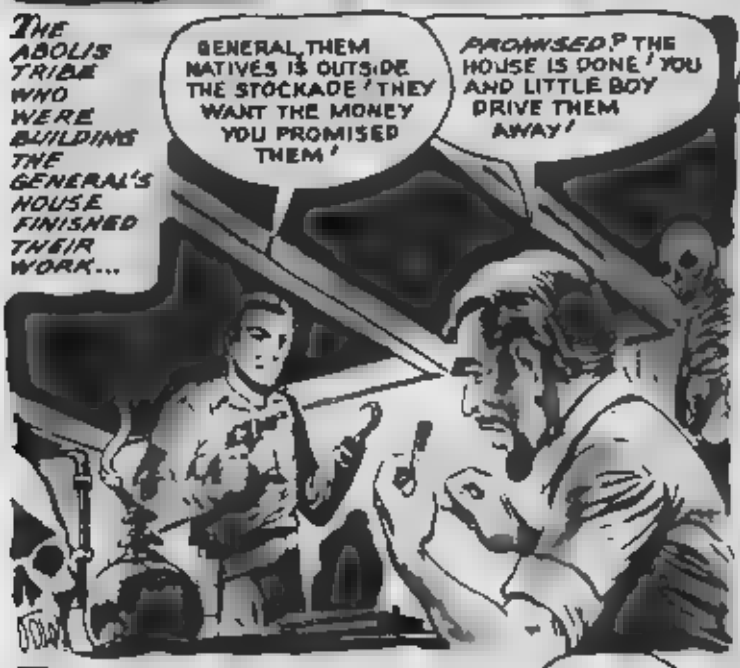
IN THE COLD BLACKNESS OF AN AFRICAN NIGHT, TRADER JON PIERCE AND HIS BOY SERVANT, SABI CHASED A FIRE AND A GROUP OF NATIVES FOR MILES AND MILES...

IN THE MORNING, JON DECIDED TO GO DOWN INTO THE VALLEY! SABI WHO FEARED FOR HIS MASTERS SAFETY TRIED TO STOP HIM



JON RAN FROM THE TERRIBLE SCENE ALL DAY AS THE BLAZING JUNGLE SKY CAST DOWN ITS WICKED HEAT UPON HIM WHEN NIGHT CAME...
HELP ME SAW FIRES THAT WALKED. . KILLED SERVANT! LOST . SUN.. WATER. .


JON WAS CARRIED TO THE CHIEF'S HUT AND TREATED! THE CHIEF TOLD HIM THE STORY OF THE ABOLIS, THE PHANTOMS OF THE FLAMES!
TWENTY YEARS AGO A CRUEL WHITE MAN CAME HERE! GENERAL LEECH HAD A GREAT HOUSE WITH A STOCKADE AROUND IT! OUR STORY BEGINS. .


THE ABOLIS TRIBE WHO WERE BUILDING THE GENERAL'S HOUSE FINISHED THEIR WORK...
GENERAL, THEM NATIVES IS OUTSIDE THE STOCKADE! THEY WANT THE MONEY YOU PROMISED THEM!
PROMISED? THE HOUSE IS DONE! YOU AND LITTLE BOY DRIVE THEM AWAY!

LATER...
WE TOLD THEM TO GO! THEY REFUSED AND SOME OF THEM ARE TRYING TO CLIMB THE STOCKADE WALLS!
FOLLOW ME! HOW DARE THOSE DEVILS DEFY ME!

THE ABOLIS WOULD NOT BE DENIED WHAT WAS RIGHTFULLY THEIRS BY AGREEMENT! THEY ATTACKED..
HOT LEAD FOR YOU DEVILS!
ARGH
UGH
AIYEE

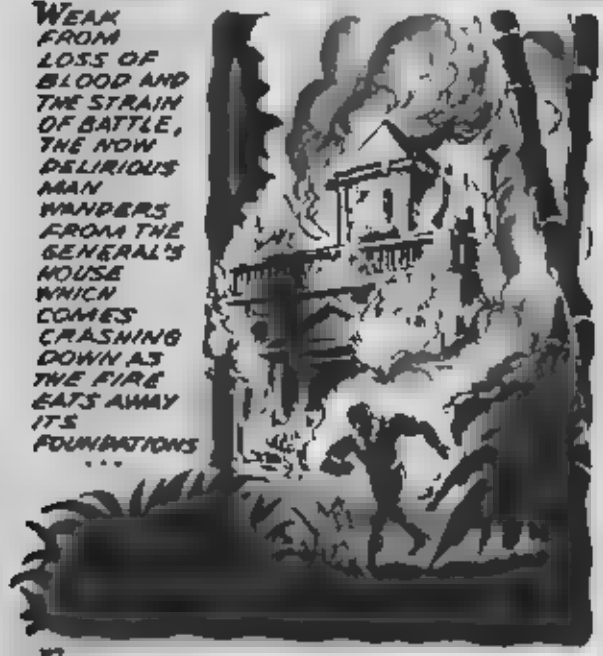
THE SLAUGHTER OF THE ABOLIS WAS TERRIBLE! EVEN THEN WE DID NOT KNOW THE POWER OF THE GENERAL'S EVIL.
THIS IS PERFECT! I CAN CONTINUE MY WORK, AND THE DAY WILL COME WHEN EITHER A MAN OBEYS ME, OR BECOMES AS FLESHLESS AS THIS SKULL!
SOMETIME LATER, AS THE GENERAL INSPECTED HIS LAND
WHAT TH- WHOA BOY... WH .. AHHHH!
IT... IT'S QUICKSAND! SAVE ME! I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING! OH, I... I CAN'T REACH THAT VINE!
LET THE QUICKSAND SUCK YOU DOWN TO THE BLACK BOWELS OF THE EARTH, MURDERER OF OUR PEOPLE!
I'LL COME BACK FROM THE DEAD! MY HOUSE WILL FOREVER BE GUARDED! EVERY ABOLIS MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD WILL BE FORCED TO ROAM! YOU WILL NEVER NEVER KNOW THE PEACE OF DEATH!
AND SLOWLY, SLOWLY, THE RAVING LEECH WAS DRAGGED BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE SAND...
THE STORY ENDS, BUT THE CURSE CONTINUES! FROM TIME TO TIME THE ABOLIS ARE SEEN AROUND THEIR FIRES! THE JUNGLE PEOPLE ALSO HAVE HEARD STRANGE NOISES FROM THE GENERAL'S OLD DESERTED HOUSE, BUT NO ONE DARES ENTER!
I'VE GOT TO SEE THAT HOUSE AFTER I GET STRONGER!

JON GOT SOMEONE TO GUIDE HIM TO THE HOUSE. THE JUNGLE WAS QUIET TOO QUIET! THERE WAS A FEELING OF SUSPENSE AND DEATH WHEN.
I DON'T FEEL QUITE AS SURE ABOUT THIS NOW THAT I'M HERE! WHAT WAS THAT?!
THUMP THUMP THUMP
A NOISE... A STRANGE SMELL MADE JON WHEEL AROUND AND WHAT HE SAW MADE THE HAIR ON HIS NECK BRISTLE WITH FEAR.
THUMP THUMP THUMP
GORILLA MY GUN. IT WON'T FIRE!
I COULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT NOISE, OH OH, THIS PASSAGE-WAY IS A DEAD END. THAT NOISE. IT'S RIGHT BEHIND ME!
THUMP THUMP THUMP
THE HUGE MONSTER ADVANCED, IT BEING THE THING LEECH HAD LEFT TO GUARD HIS HOUSE
GET OUT MY KNIFE, QUICK! OH, THE CANDLE!
THE VISE OF OAK LIKE ARMS BEGAN TO SQUEEZE THE LIFE OUT OF THE MAN... THE FLAMES ROSE ABOUT THE COMBATANTS...
IT IS GETTING SO DARK! I. I. URGH AARRGH!

WITH DESPERATION JON LASHED OUT AND BURIED HIS KNIFE DEEP IN THE BRAIN OF THE MONSTER! THE GORILLA SHUDDERED AND FELL.

THE BADLY WOUNDED TRADER DRAGGED HIMSELF OUT OF THE PASSAGE-WAY JUST IN TIME TO ESCAPE CREMATION.

WEAK FROM LOSS OF BLOOD AND THE STRAIN OF BATTLE, THE NOW DELIRIOUS MAN WANDERS FROM THE GENERAL'S HOUSE WHICH COMES CRASHING DOWN AS THE FIRE EATS AWAY ITS FOUNDATIONS . . .



AS THE BLACKNESS OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS CLOSED IN, MEN SILENT AS SHADOWS SLIPPED FROM THE JUNGLE, AND .

FOR MANY HOURS, THE STRANGE QUIET MEN CARRIED JON! THEN, AS THE TREES SUDDENLY PARTED, THE PHANTOM FIRE WAS SEEN!

BUT THIS CAN'T BE! THEY TOLD ME YOU WERE GHOSTS! BUT YOU ARE REAL! I'M LEANING ON YOU!
AYE, WE ARE GHOSTS! FOR MANY YEARS WE HAVE BEEN WANDERING, BUT NOW, NO MORE! YOU HAVE KILLED THE MONSTER, DESTROYED THE EVIL HOUSE AND LIFTED THE CURSE!
HIS MIND WHIRLING IN CONFUSED CIRCLES, JON ASKS..
HOW CAN YOU BE GHOSTS? I TELL YOU I CAN FEEL YOU! OH NO, YOU'RE ALL DISAPPEARING!
DO NOT FEAR! NOW THAT THE CURSE IS NO MORE WE CAN REST! HERE, TAKE THIS IDOL! IT WILL BE A BOND OF OUR FRIENDSHIP... WHEN WE MEET AGAIN!
UNABLE TO STAND THE STRAIN ANYMORE, THE TRAPER'S BODY BECOMES LIMP AND DROPS TO THE GROUND .. FROM NOWHERE, IT SEEMS, VOICES SPEAK...
OUR WHITE BROTHER HAS FAINTED!
WE MUST CARRY HIM TO SAFETY! WE CANNOT LET HIM DIE!
LATER...
NOW TAKE IT EASY! YOU'VE BEEN UNCONSCIOUS FOR SEVERAL DAYS!
SOMEBODY BROUGHT YOU TO THE HOSPITAL'S FRONT LAWN AND LEFT YOU THERE! THEY MUST HAVE BEEN FRIENDS OF YOURS!
FRIENDS ?? OF COURSE, THE ABOLIS!
WHEN THE DOCTOR HEARD JON MENTION THE ABOLIS, HIS FACE FIRST CLOUDED, BUT THEN BECAME SCOFFING..
YOU MUST HAVE SOME OF THAT FEVER LEFT! DON'T YOU KNOW THE ABOLIS HAVE BEEN EXTINCT FOR TWENTY YEARS! BY THE WAY, HERE'S SOMETHING YOU WERE HOLDING WHEN WE FOUND YOU!
BUT...?
AS THE DOCTOR LEAVES SMILING AND SHAKING HIS HEAD, JON PIERCE LOOKS AT WHAT THE DOCTOR HAD GIVEN HIM!
FEVER, IS IT? HERE IS THE ABOLIS IDOL! I DID SEE THE ABOLIS AND AS THE CHIEF SAID "IT WILL BE A BOND OF OUR FRIENDSHIP... WHEN WE MEET AGAIN!"
THE END

THE HANGED

THE MAN'S TWISTED SHAPE SWINGS GROTESQUELY IN THE DARKNESS HIS NECK IS BROKEN AND HIS TONGUE HAS BEEN FORCED OUT OF HIS MOUTH. THIS IS THE STORY OF HIS DEATH.

I SPENT THE AFTERNOON AT THE JEWELERS BEING POLISHED! FINALLY, THAT EVENING I MET NORA HAYNES, THE GIRL PAUL IS GOING TO MARRY!
OH, PAUL DARLING, IT'S EXQUISITE! THE MOST GORGEOUS THING I'VE EVER SEEN!
YOU SHOULD HAVE BEAUTIFUL THINGS, DARLING!
AS PAUL AND NORA KISS, I'M FILLED WITH A WONDROUS JOY! ONCE MORE I'M ALIVE AND ADMIRED!
HONEY I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU!
TOMORROW IS THE DAY OF THE WEDDING AND I'M FILLED WITH TENDERNESS FOR THEM AS THEY SAY GOODNIGHT!
AND DON'T FORGET, YOU'VE GOT AN IMPORTANT DATE TOMORROW!
AFTER PAUL LEAVES NORA SETTLES INTO A BIG CHAIR SIGHING CONTENTEDLY! I AM CONTENT ALSO, UNTIL THE DOORBELL RINGS SHARPLY...
COME IN, DARLING, I LEFT THE DOOR OPEN!
I LOOKED TOWARD THE DOOR EXPECTING TO SEE PAUL RETURN... BUT THE MAN WHO WALKS ACROSS THE LIVING ROOM IS NOT PAUL!
HOW'D IT GO, HONEY, EVERYTHING ALL SET?
EVERYTHING'S PERFECT, DARLING! THE IDIOT GAVE ME A LITTLE PRESENT TONIGHT. UGLY, BUT WORTH AT LEAST 10 G'S!
THE MAN CALLED BART SITS NEXT TO NORA AND LAUGHS! I HATE HIM AND I HATE NORA EVEN MORE!
YOU'RE RIGHT, BABY!
I HOPE IT WON'T BE TOO LONG BEFORE THIS WHOLE THING IS OVER! YOU'RE THE MAN I WANT TO MARRY!
THEY KISS... AND INSIDE OF ME THERE IS RAGE AND SORROW!
IT WONT BE LONG, BABY.. JUST LONG ENOUGH TO KILL FRANKLIN!

THEY'RE GOING TO KILL MY PAUL AND ALTHOUGH I SHRIEK OUT A WARNING, IT IS FUTILE! WHO CAN HEAR THE VOICE OF A CHOKER?
AND DO YOU, PAUL FRANKLIN ..
WE HONEYMOON IN BERMUDA AND POOR PAUL IS BLISSFULLY HAPPY, UNAWARE OF HIS FORTHCOMING MURDER!
MAIL THESE LETTERS FOR ME, WILL YOU DARLING?
OF COURSE, PAUL!
GOOD! BART CAN USE THESE FOR A SAMPLE OF HIS HANDWRITING!
I KNOW THE WHOLE SLIMY SCHEME NOW, BUT THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO...
OH, MARTHA, YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME! YOU'VE KNOWN PAUL FOR YEARS! MAYBE YOU CAN TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?!
WRONG? WITH PAUL!
Y-YES, HE'S SO JEALOUS! ALWAYS ACCUSING ME OF FLIRTING WITH OTHER MEN! HE'S SOMETIMES THREATENED TO KILL ME!
PAUL'S DONE THAT? NORA, I HAD NO IDEA!
I MAY GET A DIVORCE! I CAN'T LIVE THIS WAY MUCH LONGER!
MY POOR POOR DARLING!
MARTHA LEAVES AND NORA SITS ON THE EDGE OF THE BED LAUGHING! NOW I HATE HER!
HA HA HA! I'M SURE YOU WON'T TELL ANYONE, MARTHA. YOU'LL TELL EVERYONE! LIKE I WANT YOU TO!
AND DURING ONE OF THEIR SECRET MEETINGS WHILE PAUL IS AT THE OFFICE, BART AND NORA DECIDE THAT THE TIME IS RIGHT...
YOU'RE SURE MARTHA SPREAD THE WORD AROUND?
POSITIVE, DARLING! I CAN TELL BY THE WAY EVERYBODY'S LOOKING AT ME! WE BETTER WORK FAST, BART!

TONIGHT IS TO BE THE NIGHT, BUT THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO! I AM HELPLESS!

TUM-TA-TUM-TA-TE-DUM-DE..

HONEY, DINNER'S READY!

PAUL ENTERS THE DINING ROOM AND FOR THE FIRST TIME COMES FACE-TO-FACE WITH BART CRAWFORD!

YOU DIDN'T TELL ME WE WERE HAVING COMPANY, DARLING! HOW DO YOU DO, MISTER...

CRAWFORD'S THE NAME, BUT CALL ME BART! NORA AND I HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR YEARS!

YES, PAUL, BART AND I ARE VERY DEAR FRIENDS! IN FACT, HE'S THE MAN I'M GOING TO MARRY!

MARRY? NORA HONEY, ARE YOU CRAZY? YOU'RE ALREADY MARRIED TO ME!

PAUL LOOKS BEWILDERED AS NORA AND BART LAUGH IN HIS FACE

YES, SHE'S MARRIED TO YOU NOW! BUT WITHIN A MONTH SHE'LL BE MY WIFE!

LOOK, IF THIS IS A JOKE, I DON'T FIND IT VERY FUNNY!

SORRY, PAUL BABY, BUT IT'S NO JOKE!

AND THEN BART TAKES A COLD BLACK REVOLVER FROM HIS POCKET AND POINTS IT AT PAUL'S HEAD!

THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH!

SHUT UP, FRANKLIN, WE HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO WASTE!

EVERYTHING'S ALL SET IN THE BASEMENT, BART! LET'S GET HIM DOWNSTAIRS!

THEY FORCE HIM DOWN TO THE BASEMENT, GLOATING AS THEY BOAST OF THEIR PLAN!

CAREFUL WITH HIM, HONEY! WE DON'T WANT TO BRUISE HIM!

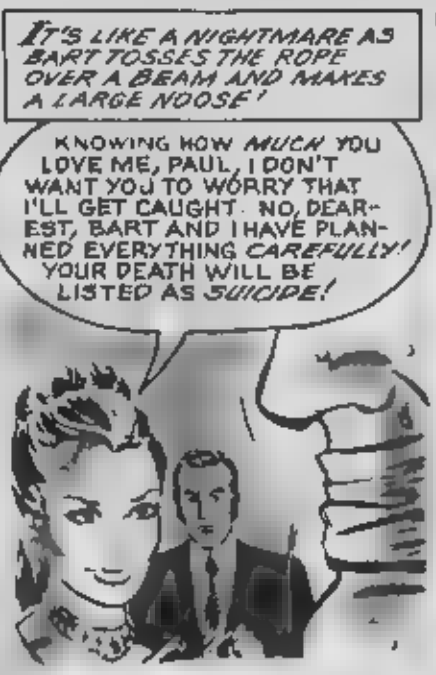
THAT'S RIGHT, NORA, THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY MARKS EXCEPT THOSE AROUND HIS NECK!

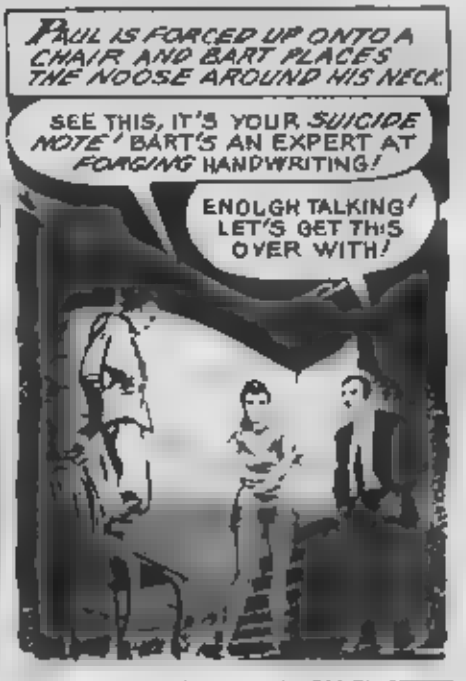
NORA! IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN, WHAT... UGHHH

SORRY, OLD MAN, BUT WE CAN'T HAVE YOU MAKING ANY NOISE NOW!

POOR PAUL! WHILE BART IS COMPLETING THE ARRANGEMENTS, I'LL EXPLAIN YOUR FATE!

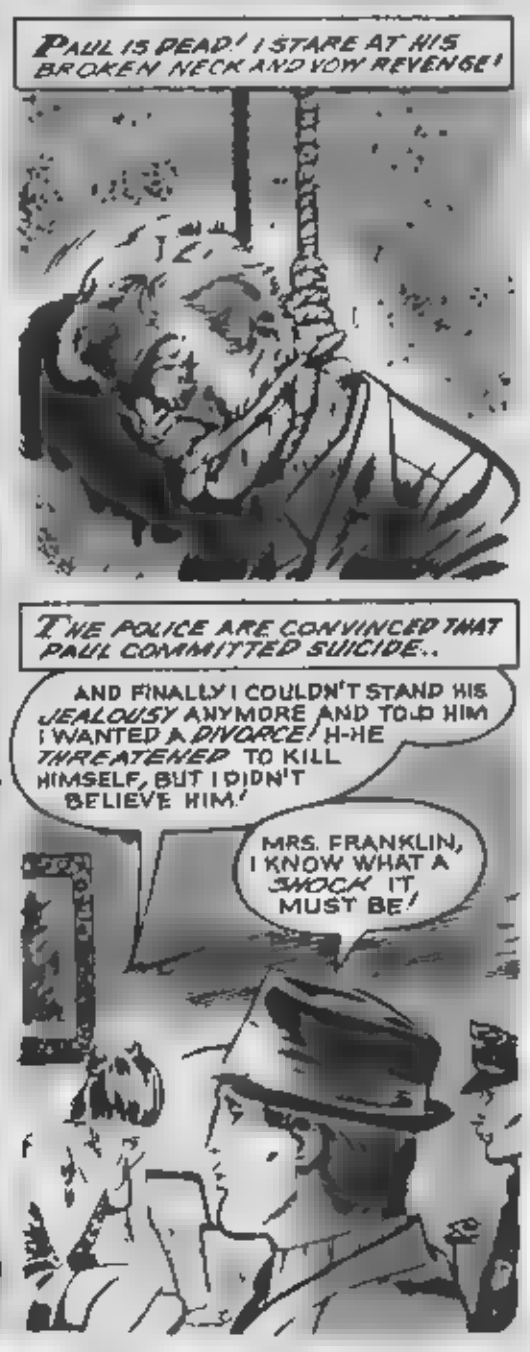
AS HE LISTENS, PAULS EYES BULGE WITH RAGE AND FEAR!
IT'S SIMPLE, PAUL! WE'RE GOING TO KILL YOU FOR YOUR MONEY! I'VE NEVER LOVED YOU, DARLING!
GURGLE CHOKE


IT'S LIKE A NIGHTMARE AS BART TOSSES THE ROPE OVER A BEAM AND MAKES A LARGE NOOSE!
KNOWING HOW MUCH YOU LOVE ME, PAUL, I DON'T WANT YOU TO WORRY THAT I'LL GET CAUGHT. NO, DEAREST, BART AND I HAVE PLANNED EVERYTHING CAREFULLY! YOUR DEATH WILL BE LISTED AS SUICIDE!


PAUL IS FORCED UP ONTO A CHAIR AND BART PLACES THE NOOSE AROUND HIS NECK.
SEE THIS, IT'S YOUR SUICIDE NOTE! BART'S AN EXPERT AT FORGING HANDWRITING!
ENOUGH TALKING! LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH!

BARTS FOOT KICKS THE CHAIR FROM UNDER PAUL & THE NOOSE TIGHTENS WITH A SUDDEN JERK AND PAULS BODY SWINGS GROTESQUELY..
IT WAS A FAIR EXCHANGE, PAUL! YOU GAVE ME A NECKLACE, AND I GAVE YOU A CHOKER!

HE DANGLES HELPLESSLY! THIS IS MY PAUL, DYING! THE VICTIM OF THE LOWEST KIND OF TREACHERY!
IT'S ALMOST OVER, NORA! JUST ANOTHER SECOND!


PAUL IS DEAD! I STARE AT HIS BROKEN NECK AND VOW REVENGE!
THE POLICE ARE CONVINCED THAT PAUL COMMITTED SUICIDE..
AND FINALLY I COULDN'T STAND HIS JEALOUSY ANYMORE AND TOLD HIM I WANTED A DIVORCE! H-HE THREATENED TO KILL HIMSELF, BUT I DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM!
MRS. FRANKLIN, I KNOW WHAT A SHOCK IT MUST BE!

THE GOSSIP NORA HAD SO CLEVERLY PLANTED HELPS TO BACK UP THE "SUICIDE" STORY!

OH, YES, OFFICER. EVERYBODY KNEW ABOUT PAULS TERRIBLE JEALOUSY!

IT WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT NORA INTENDED TO DIVORCE HIM!

WE ALL FELT SO SORRY FOR HER!

THE POLICE EXPERTS ARE CONVINCED THAT THE HANDWRITING IN THE SUICIDE NOTE IS PAUL'S AND THUS A MONTH LATER NORA BECOMES THE LEGAL HEIR TO PAUL'S FORTUNE!

IF YOU'LL JUST SIGN YOUR NAME IN THOSE THREE PLACES, MRS FRANKLIN, WE'LL BE FINISHED!

IT SEEMS SO UNREAL! I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S DEAD!

FOR APPEARANCES SAKE, SHE WAITS A MONTH BEFORE LEAVING TOWN TO MEET BART IN CANADA!

WE DID IT, BABY! WE DID IT!

AND GOT AWAY WITH IT!

READY TO CELEBRATE, MRS. CRAWFORD?

IN JUST A SECOND, DARLING! HAND ME THE FRANKLIN NECKLACE! I MIGHT AS WELL WEAR IT ONCE BEFORE [redacted] IT!

I'D BEEN AFRAID THAT MY CHANCE MIGHT NEVER COME! THAT NORA MIGHT NEVER AGAIN CLASP ME AROUND HER NECK BUT NOW I'M EXACTLY WHERE I WANT TO BE ..

LET'S DRIVE TO THE COUNTRY FOR DINNER! THERE'S A ROADHOUSE ABOUT TWENTY MILES FROM HERE!

WONDERFUL, BART!

I WAIT UNTIL WE REACH A SECLUDED PART OF THE HIGHWAY AND THEN I BEGIN, SLOWLY AT FIRST...

MAYBE AFTER A MONTH OR SO (COUGH) WE'LL RUN DOWN TO MEXICO (COUGH)

WHAT'S THE MATTER YOU CATCHING A COLD?

I WORK SLOWLY, INCREASING THE PRESSURE JUST EVER SO SLIGHTLY... I WANT NORA TO FEEL EVERY EXQUISITE MOMENT OF PAIN BEFORE SHE DIES..

I (COUGH) FEEL LIKE I'M CHOKING, LIKE I CAN'T BREATHE! IT-IT'S THIS NECKLACE, BART!

THE NECKLACE? C'MON, YOU'RE KIDDING!

BUT EVEN AS NORA'S FINGERS FUMBLE WITH MY CLASP, MY GOLD LINKS ARE PULLING TIGHTER AND TIGHTER .
BART, HELP ME! (CHOKE) I-I CAN'T GET IT (CHOKE GASP) OFF!
TAKE IT EASY, I'LL HELP YOU!
I CAN FEEL THE MUSCLES IN NORA'S NECK CONSTRICT AND I'M FILLED WITH GLEE! PAUL'S DEATH WILL NOT GO UNAVENGED!
BART, HURRY, (CHOKE) IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN (GASP) HURRY!
IT'S STUCK! HOLD STILL! THE CATCH IS JAMMED!
SHE'S SCREAMING WITH PAIN AND FEAR! BART TUGS AT MY CATCH, BUT IT'S USELESS! HE'LL NEVER GET ME FROM AROUND HER NECK!
(GAG) GET IT OFF I'M CHOKING TO DEATH!
NORA!
MY LINKS PULL TOGETHER IN THE FINAL LAST PULL! I FEEL HER NECK CRACK, FEEL HER VEINS POP OPEN, AND I'M GLAD!
B-BART AGHRRRRRR!
NORA IS DEAD AND AS FOR BART, WELL NOW, YOU CAN'T REALLY EXPECT THE POLICE TO BELIEVE THAT A NECKLACE KILLED HER!
STOP STALLING, CRAWFORD! YOU KILLED HER! ADMIT IT!
I DIDN'T! I SWEAR I DIDN'T! IT WAS THE NECKLACE!
THE JURY DELIBERATES ONLY TWENTY MINUTES BEFORE BRINGING IN THEIR VERDICT!
WE FIND THE DEFENDANT GUILTY IN THE FIRST DEGREE!
NO! NO!
BUT HIS PLEAS ARE IN VAIN! AND HIS PUNISHMENT? WHAT ELSE, BUT A CHOKER OF HEMP ROPE!
The End

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BLOODSUCKER

A SINISTER FIGURE STALKING THE EERIE NIGHT.. A TERRIFIED SCREAM TEARS FROM A HUMAN THROAT AS GLEAMING FANGS BITE INTO SOFT WHITE FLESH AND THEN... SILENCE, GRAVEYARD SILENCE! THERE IS ONLY THE MOURNFUL WIND CRYING OVER THE BLOODLESS BODY LYING IN GHOSTLY SHADOWS WHICH HIDES THE CHILLING...

BLOOD-SUCKER

NO! NO! DON'T! I'LL NEVER REVEAL YOUR SECRET! DON'T...

OHHHH!

BUT WHEN POLICE AND CORONER ARRIVED.. ALL WAS STILL, AS STILL AND WITHERED AND LIFELESS BODY SO WANTONLY ATTACKED.

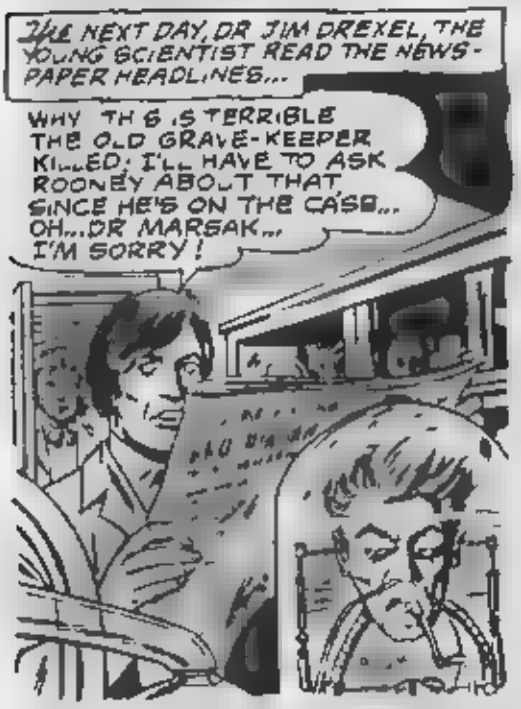
HE'S DEAD ALL RIGHT! LOOKS LIKE HE FELL OVER HIS LANTERN, CUT HIMSELF AND BLED TO DEATH!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THESE THINGS THAT LOOK LIKE TEETH-MARKS, DOC? SEEMS TO ME I READ..

YEAH I KNOW "DRACULA"! I SUPPOSE YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME MY BUSINESS AND THAT A CREATURE OF DARKNESS DID THIS THERE IS NO SUCH THING.

AW, I KNOW THAT DOC! I WAS ONLY THINKING..

THE ONLY TROUBLE WAS THAT DETECTIVE ROONEY DIDN'T THINK LONG OR FAR ENOUGH! FOR JUST A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY, A SINISTER FIGURE STANDS LISTENING..
FOOL OF A DOCTOR... SO HE DOESN'T BELIEVE..


THE NEXT DAY, DR JIM DREXEL, THE YOUNG SCIENTIST READ THE NEWSPAPER HEADLINES...
WHY THIS IS TERRIBLE THE OLD GRAVE-KEEPER KILLED! I'LL HAVE TO ASK ROONEY ABOUT THAT SINCE HE'S ON THE CASE... OH...DR MARSAK... I'M SORRY!

JIM... GET YOUR EYES OFF THAT PAPER MEET MISS KATHY CORBIN
OH! GLAD TO MEET YOU, KATHY! I'M READING ABOUT THIS ACCIDENT LAST NIGHT, DOCTOR! IN THE CEMETERY... NEAR YOUR TOMB!

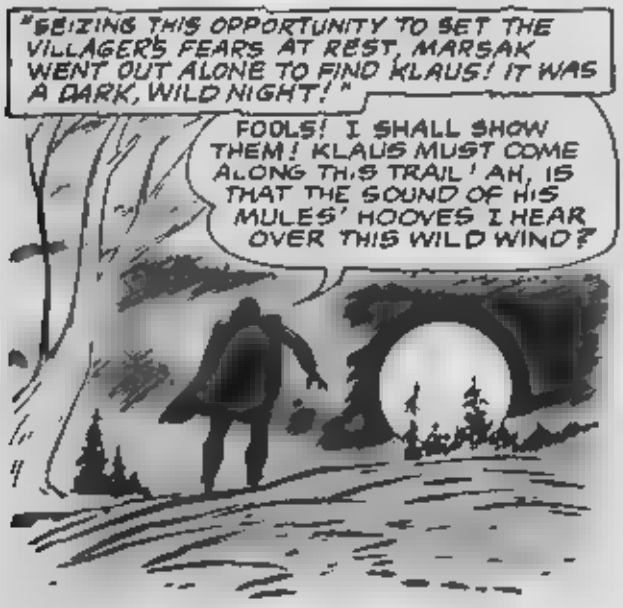
TOMB? YOUR TOMB, DOCTOR?
YES, MY DEAR! I HAVE A PET THEORY THAT AFTER A CERTAIN AGE ONE SHOULD PREPARE FOR DEATH! SO SINCE I HAVE A WORTHY SUCCESSOR IN DR DREXEL, WHY SHOULD I NOT DEVOTE MYSELF TO PREPARING FOR THE HEREAFTER?

WHEN DR MARSAK LEAVES..
THAT POOR GRAVE-TENDER COULDN'T PREPARE FOR DEATH! IT MUST HAVE BEEN GHASTLY! I'M GLAD, THOUGH DR MARSAK DIDN'T READ ABOUT VAMPIRES DOING IT (AS ROONEY SUGGESTED)! I'LL TELL HIM LATER... WHEN THERE'S MORE TIME!
DOES DR MARSAK BELIEVE IN THOSE FOOLISH TALES?

HEAVENS NO! IN HIS YOUTH HE WAS BANISHED FROM HIS OWN VILLAGE IN EUROPE, BECAUSE HE TRIED TO HELP THE PEASANTS CONQUER THEIR SUPERSTITIONS!
I DON'T THINK I REMEMBER THAT... TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT IT J.M... BEFORE DR MARSAK GETS BACK!

"MARSAK" JIM TELLS KATHY, "KNEW EVEN THEN THAT SCIENCE WOULD NOT ADMIT THE EXISTENCE OF GHOULS OF DEATH BUT TO THE VILLAGERS THEY WERE REAL..."
I FEEL FOR THE SAFETY OF KLAUS, THE PEDDLER! HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE BY NOW!
I HOPE HE DOES NOT TRAVEL BY NIGHT! THE VAMPIRES...

SUCH NONSENSE! THERE ARE NO SUCH THINGS! WHY DO YOU NOT FIND OUT?
HA! LISTEN TO THE YOUNG DOCTOR TO BE MARSAK TALK! IF HE'S SO BRAVE, LET HIM MEET KLAUS AND COME HERE WITH HIM!


"SEIZING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SET THE VILLAGER'S FEARS AT REST, MARSAK WENT OUT ALONE TO FIND KLAUS! IT WAS A DARK, WILD NIGHT!"
FOOLS! I SHALL SHOW THEM! KLAUS MUST COME ALONG THIS TRAIL! AH, IS THAT THE SOUND OF HIS MULES' HOOVES I HEAR OVER THIS WILD WIND?

"SUDDENLY, A WILD, BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM RANG OUT IN THE DISTANCE"
KLAUS! WHAT HAPPENED?

"AS MARSAK BENT OVER TO AID THE STRICKEN MAN SOMETHING ENVELOPED HIM."

"...AND EVERYTHING WENT BLACK! IN THE MORNING THE VILLAGERS FOUND THEM... KLAUS WAS DEAD, STIFF AND COLD! MARSAK WAS BARELY ALIVE!"
THE VAMPIRE! WE TOLD YOU, YOU YOUNG FOOL!
NONSENSE! THE MULE WAS FRIGHTENED! HIS HOOF MUST HAVE STRUCK ME!

AND WAS DR MARSAK RIGHT?
OF COURSE! HE SWORE HE'D TRACK DOWN THE SUPERSTITION! HE BECAME AN EXPERT ON WITCHCRAFT, BUT THE DEATHS CONTINUED UNTIL FINALLY DR MARSAK WAS HOOTED OUT OF HIS OWN VILLAGE! OH, SORRY, DOCTOR!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, JIM! KATHY SHOULD KNOW! YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN VAMPIRES, KATHY?
NOT ME!
BUT YOU COULDN'T CONVINCE DETECTIVE ROONEY! THAT WAS A FUNNY TOUCH IN THE TRAGIC STORY OF THE GRAVE-KEEPER'S DEATH! ROONEY LIVES AT MY BOARDING-HOUSE KATHY!

WELL, I SUPPOSE EACH TO HIS OWN BELIEF! I'VE GOT TO TAKE KATHY TO MY LAB NOW, JIM! YOU CAN HAVE HER LATER!

KATHY WAS VERY HAPPY IN HER JOB. FROM MARSAK SHE LEARNED MANY OF SCIENCE'S MYSTERIES... ONE DAY...
OH! THE TEST TUBE SLIPPED! I'VE CUT MYSELF!
THAT'S A DANGEROUS CHEMICAL!

DR MARSAK TAKES KATHY'S FINGER BETWEEN HIS LIPS.
DOCTOR... WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I HOPE I DIDN'T FRIGHTEN YOU, CHILD! I HAD TO GET THAT BLOOD OUT! THAT CHEMICAL MIGHT HAVE KILLED YOU!
YOU DID FRIGHTEN ME... BUT THANK YOU!

THAT EVENING, DINING AT THE BOARDING-HOUSE WHERE THEY BOTH LIVE, KATHY TELLS JIM OF HER NEAR TRAGEDY...

I'M GLAD DR. MARSAK WAS THERE TO HELP! FEEL RIGHT ENOUGH FOR A MOVIE TONIGHT?

NO... I... GUESS I'M HAVING A LITTLE POST-ACCIDENT SHOCK! I'D BETTER GET TO BED EARLY JIM! MAYBE SOME OTHER NIGHT..

AND SO KATHY WENT TO BED EARLY, CONFIDENT THAT IN THE MORNING SHE'D FEEL BETTER! ENGROSSED IN HER BOOK, SHE DOESN'T SEE THE STRANGE FIGURE AT HER WINDOW ..

ODD THAT I SHOULD FEEL SO WEAK!

SUDDENLY, THE WINDOW OPENS NOISELESSLY AND INTO THE ROOM COMES A CREATURE OF THE PITS! IT LEAPS, CUTTING KATHY'S SCREAM SHORT...

BUT JIM HEARD KATHY'S TERRIFIED CRY FOR HELP!

QUICK, ROONEY! KATHY... KATHY..

BUT I TELL YOU JIM, I SAW SOMETHING LIKE A GIANT BAT!

NOW .. NOW .. BE QUIET! YOU MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP AND KNOCKED OVER THE LAMP! YOU CUT YOURSELF.. THESE NICKS...

THE DOCTOR'S RIGHT, MISS KATHY! I'VE HAD NIGHT-MARES MYSELF! I KNOW! BETTER GIVE HER A SEDATIVE, DOC! THEN I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!

AFTER GIVING KATHY A SEDATIVE, JIM DECIDES TO STAY BY HER...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ROONEY?

LOOK AT THIS! THE SAME MARKS WERE ON THAT DEAD GRAVE KEEPER! BUT I JUST CHECKED OUTSIDE AND THERE AIN'T A FOOTPRINT!

JUST A COINCIDENCE, ROONEY GLASS CUTS! SAY, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE OFF ON THAT VAMPIRE ROUTINE AGAIN! GO ON TO BED! I'LL SIT UP WITH KATHY!

JUST THE SAME, I'LL BET IT AIN'T ALL FICTION! THERE MUST BE SOME TRUTH IN IT; OKAY, GOOD NIGHT! BUT I'M LOOKING AROUND AGAIN!

AS JIM KEEPS HIS VIGIL, HE DOZES... JUST A CATNAP! KATHY OPENS HER EYES AND SEES JIM. BUT SUDDENLY, FROM A DISTANCE, A SOFT, INSINUATING VOICE CALLS ..

KATHY.. KATHY... YOU WILL DO AS I BID YOU... AND THEN COME TO ME, MY LOVE ...

IN A TRANCE-LIKE STATE, KATHY DOES AS SHE IS BIDDEN! HER SOFT-WHITE ARMS ENFOLD JIM AND THE NEXT INSTANT, SHARP WHITE TEETH KNIFE HIS NECK.

KATHY ! I..I..

AS HIS BODY WEAKENS STRANGELY, JIM SUMMONS ALL HIS RESERVE STRENGTH! HE PUSHES KATHY AWAY... THEN THE ROOM REVOLVES DIZZILY...

COME .. COME .

HELP! HELP!

WHAT'S GOING ON? JIM... MISS KATHY!

I HEARD THE COMMOTION! WHAT HAPPENED? HEY, WE'VE GOT TO GET THAT GIRL! IT'S SNOWING OUT! SHE MUST BE DELIRIOUS!

YES... YES... BUT ROONEY... LET'S FOLLOW HER! COME ON!

OBLIVIOUS OF THE SNOW AND BITING COLD, AS THOUGH ATTRACTED BY A MAGNETIC FORCE, KATHY GLIDES THROUGH THE NIGHT...

SHE'S GOING INTO THE CEMETERY! LOOK!

PUT THAT GUN AWAY, ROONEY! I'M AFRAID IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD .. AGAINST WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING! THANK GOODNESS IT'S ALMOST DAWN! SEE THE SKY'S GETTING LIGHTER!

QUICKLY, JIM WRESTS A STAKE FROM A NEARBY DRIFT FENCE AND ORDERS ROONEY TO DO THE SAME .. AS THE DOOR OPENS, AND KATHY VANISHES!!

HURRY, HURRY... ROONEY! GET A STAKE!

I THINK YOU'RE CRAZY, TOO, DOC... SO I'LL DO IT! BUT, KATHY... LOOK SHE'S GOING INSIDE!

AS JIM AND DETECTIVE ROONEY ENTER THE TOMB, A GHASTLY SIGHT SENDS CHILLS OF HORROR UP AND DOWN THEIR SPINES!

DOC... THEY'RE DEAD! GLORY BE... I... I ..

NO... NOT DEAD YET, ROONEY! NOT YET... BUT THEY'RE GOING TO BE!

HIS HEART HEAVY, BUT REALIZING WHAT MUST BE DONE, JIM DRIVES THE WOODEN SPIKE INTO MARSAR'S HEART! SUDDENLY, A CHILLING SCREAM ECHOES AND RE-ECHOES THROUGH THE TOMB...

GOOD-BYE, MARSAK, MY FRIEND! NOW MAY YOUR TORMENTED SOUL REST IN PEACE FOREVER!

DOC... DOC! THAT'S MURDER! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHY? WHY?

BUT THE SCREAM WHICH STRUCK SUCH TERROR INTO ROONEY'S HEART, WAS NOT TORN FROM THE DEVIL-POSSESSED DR. MARSAR, BUT FROM KATHY'S THROAT!

JIM... JIM . WHERE AM I?

KATHY... KATHY, DARLING! IT'S A MIRACLE YOU'RE FLESH AND BLOOD STILL.. MY DARLING!

WILL SOMEBODY TELL THE LAW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?

IT WAS WHILE I WAS DOZING IN KATHY'S ROOM THAT I THOUGHT OF MARSAR'S EXPERIENCE IN THE VILLAGE OF HIS YOUTH... I WAS THINKING OF WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED IF A VAMPIRE AND NOT A MULE HAD ATTACKED HIM! AND THEN SUDDENLY IT WAS CLEAR... HIS FIRST AID TO KATHY'S FINGER! HE COULDN'T HELP HIMSELF! TONIGHT HE ATTACKED KATHY AGAIN!

FORTUNATELY, WE STOPPED HIM IN TIME!

DON'T YOU SEE, ROONEY? THE GRAVEYARD KEEPER MUST HAVE DISCOVERED HIS SECRET! MARSAK SLEPT HERE AFTER EACH ATTACK! THEN HE WOULD COME TO THE LABORATORY!

A REAL GENUINE, VAMPIRE! IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS!

HOLD ME... OH, JIM!

BUT DO YOU THINK THEY'D BELIEVE ME AT HEADQUARTERS? THE CHIEF SAID MARSAR JUST WENT NUTS.. AND WHO WAS I TRYING TO KID? BUT YOU BELIEVE ME DON'T YOU?

The End

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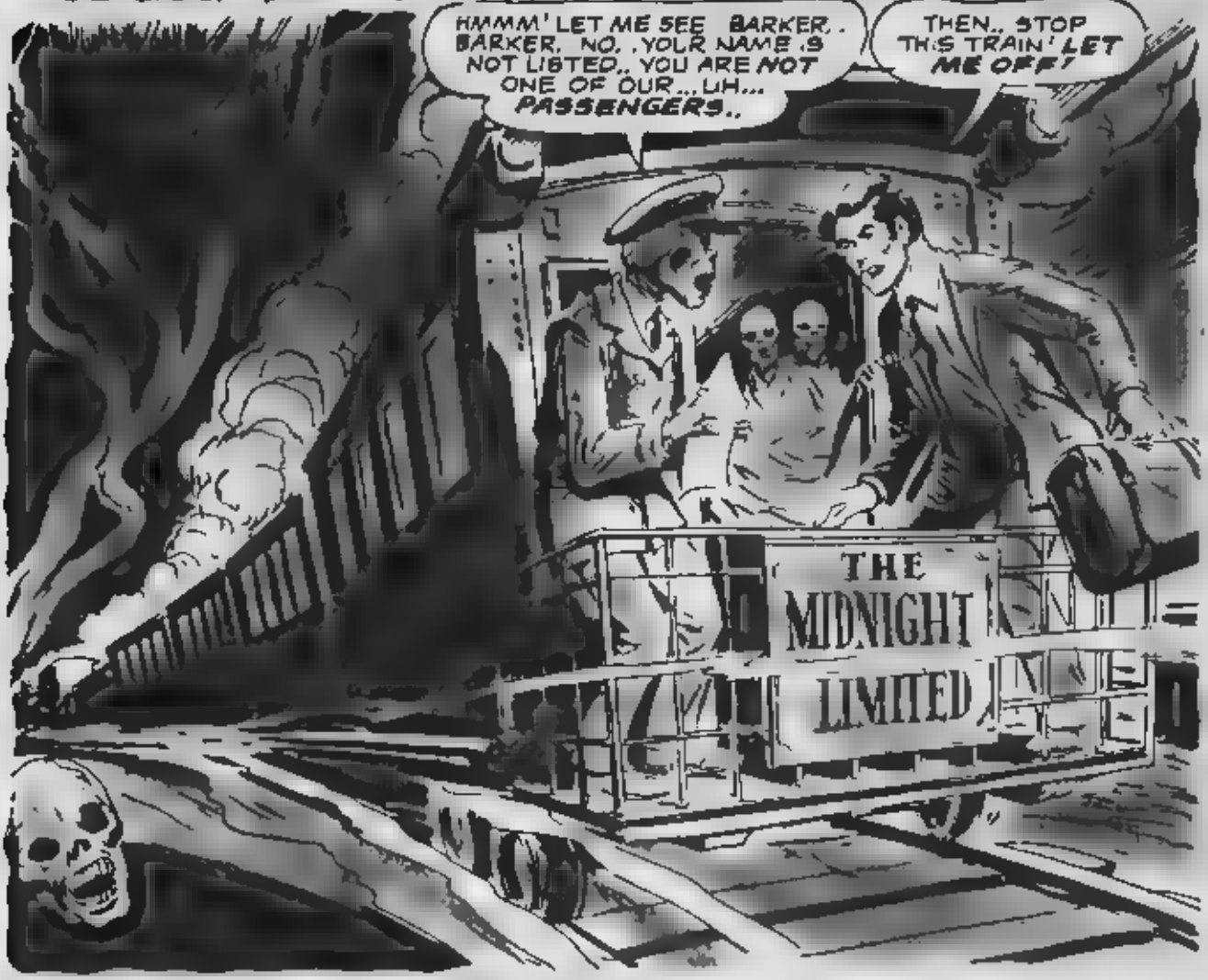
A SHRILL, EERIE BLAST PIERCES THE NIGHT, AND THEN A MUFFLED, KNELLING CLACKETY-CLACK... A HORRIBLE CHUGGING OF A TRAIN'S WHEELS... AND FINALLY THE...

DEAD MAN'S TRAIN



MADE IT! NOW TO GET INSIDE...
THE MIDNIGHT LIMITED

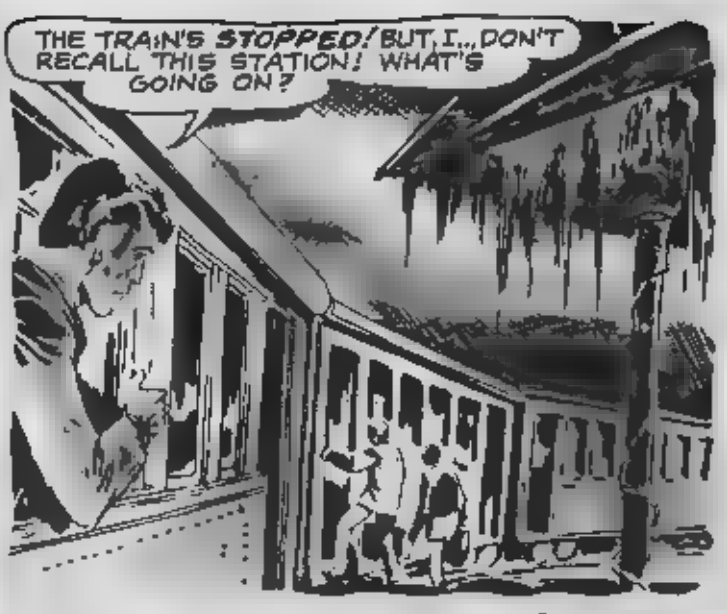
AS BARKER GAINED ENTRANCE TO THE SMOKING CAR, HE WAS CONFRONTED BY A STRANGE QUIETUDE... A DEATHLY EMPTINESS...
I... THIS IS FUNNY... NOBODY'S AROUND!

THE TRAIN LOOKS DESERTED! CAN'T FIND... WAIT! THERE'S SOMEBODY..

CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?
YES! MY NAME'S DAVE BARKER, I... I'M LOOKING FOR MY COMPARTMENT!

TAKE ANY ONE.. THEY'RE ALL ALIKE!
WHY, THAT'S ODD FOR ANY TRAIN I'VE BEEN ON... WHAT TRAIN IS THIS?

BUT, BEFORE THE CONDUCTOR ANSWERED, THE TRAIN'S WHISTLE BLASTED... LIKE A HARSH SCREAM OF AGONY, WARNING THE STATION AHEAD OF ITS APPROACH..


THE TRAIN'S STOPPED! BUT, I... DON'T RECALL THIS STATION! WHAT'S GOING ON?

I'VE GOT TO TALK TO SOMEONE... THOSE PEOPLE WHO GOT ON AT THE LAST STOP... I'LL ASK THEM...

FRANTICALLY, BARKER COMBED THE TRAIN FOR THE TWO LATE ARRIVALS, THEN, AT THE END OF A NARROW, DANK VESTIBULE HE FOUND...
THE SMOKING CAR! THEY'RE PROBABLY IN HERE!

HELLO! MY NAME'S... AIEEEE!!

UGH! THEY'RE DEAD... DEAD MEN! WHAT KIND OF TRAIN AM I ON?

YAAAAA!
MR. BARKER, I'VE BEEN LOOKING OVER OUR PASSENGER LIST... YOUR NAME IS NOT ON IT!

I...I TOOK THE WRONG TRAIN! I'LL GET OFF AT...
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU SEE... THIS IS THE MIDNIGHT LIMITED! IT STOPS ONLY FOR... THE DEAD!

YOU MUST STAY ON! THEREFORE... YOU MUST DIE!!
NO! KEEP AWAY!

AS BARKER RUNS THROUGH THE TRAIN, COLD SWEAT FORMS ON HIS BROW...THE FIRST SIGN OF UNSHAKABLE FEAR...
...GOT TO ESCAPE! MY COMPARTMENT... I'LL LOCK MYSELF IN!

THE DOOR DOESN'T LOCK! NO KEY... I WHAT IS...?

YOU CANNOT LIVE...
ARGGHHH!...CAN'T BREATHE...

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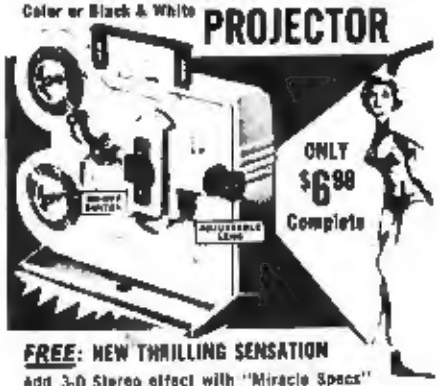

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THEY'RE FORCING ME BACK... I... I'M FALLING!
AS THE HAUNTING SOUND OF THE TRAIN RECEDED INTO THE DISTANCE, BARKER FOUND HE WAS STRANGELY ALIVE... HIS EARS BUZZING WITH NUMBNESS... HIS EYES SEEING DANCING LIGHTS...
OHHH... THAT FALL NEARLY KILLED ME... BUT, I'M ALIVE... HA! HA... ALIVE! AND... THERE'S A STATION... GOT TO GET HELP...
EX--CUSE... ME... BUT... I NEED... HELP...
NO, YOU DON'T! YOU SEE... YOU'RE DEAD!
YAAA! THEN... I DID DIE... IN THAT FALL...
SO, DAVE BARKER NOW AWAITS THE TRAIN HE BOARDED BY MISTAKE! BY AN EERIE STATION SOMEWHERE OUT THERE HE LISTENS FOR THE WAILING WHISTLE OF THE MIDNIGHT LIMITED!
The End